

Unsafe Rail Travel

† 1512. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that rail passengers have started feeling unsafe;
- (b) if so, whether Government would consider to take some steps in order to rid the passengers of robberies being committed by antisocial elements; and
- (c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Though the maintenance of law and order and control of crime on Railway premises including Railway stations and running trains is the responsibility of the state Government concerned but Railway Protection Force (RPF) co-ordinates with the Government Railway Police (GRP) for ensuring better security to the Railway passengers and their belongings. The following steps have been taken by Railway Protection Force for improving the passenger safety:

- (1) Co-ordination meetings are being held between Railway managers, RPF officers and State Police officers at the Zonal and Divisional level. Meeting is also being held at the level of Railway Board.
- (2) RPF Officers are holding regular co-ordination meetings with their counter-parts on the GRP and Civil Police.
- (3) Sharing of Special Intelligence and Crime Intelligence between RPF and GRP is being done at all levels.
- (4) Joint Strategies for dealing with anti-social elements operating on Railways have been chalked out by the GRP and RPF.
- (5) Proper watch is being maintained by Coach Attendants/TTEs

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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on passengers entering/detraining from coaches and coaches are properly locked during their Tun.

- (6) Announcement through public address system and CCN at important stations to alert travelling public against theft of their belongings etc.
- (7) Wherever the State Govt, wants to establish mobile post in the running trains, necessary facilities like accommodation etc. are being provided.

Cancellation of confirmed reservations in Kalka Mail

1513. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to accommodate MPs going to Chail in Himachal Pradesh to witness a cricket match, in Kalka Mail from Delhi on 12th May, 2000, confirmed reservations of 1st Class AC passengers were cancelled, thereby causing a lot of inconvenience to them; and

(b) whether it is a fact that passengers were refused entry into the train at the nick of time, without information?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The train No. 2311 Howrah-Kalka Mail which was scheduled to leave Howrah on 11.5.2000 and passing through Delhi on 12.5.2000 was cancelled by Eastern Railway due to "Bharat Bandh". Consequently, all the passengers booked by this train were granted refund.

Half price tickets for Rashtrapati Awardee Teachers

1514. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are giving II Class half price tickets to teachers who were honoured with Rashtrapati award;

(b) what type of facilities are given to other such awardees; and

(c) whether Government would consider some better honour to such awardees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF